the last three years has been as follows:

Year	No. of Plastic crates/cardboard boxes
1996-97	2,00,000
1997-98	18,000
1998-99	20,000

Review of Export Schemes

2032. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are taking a fresh look at some of the Export schemes to make them campatible with the WTO norms;

(b) if so, what are the details of such schemes; and

(c) whether it will involve fundamental restructuring?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (c) Review of the Exim Policy and procedures is an ongoing process. The revised edition of the Export Import Policy and Hand Book of Procedures incorporating the latest changes in the Exim Policy and procedures is expected to be notified at the commencement of the next financial year.

Strengthening of Export-Oriented Units

2033. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Federation of Indian Export Organisations has suggested several measures to strengthen the base and content of Export-Oriented Units (BOU) and units set up in the export processing zones;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereon;

(c) whether suggestions for extending modvat credit EOUs and for simplification of various procedures for the benefit of EOUs have been received; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) Suggestions have been received, including from Federation of Indian Export Organistions (FIEO), for change/ modifications in Chapter 9 of Export-Import Policy pertaining to Export oriented Units and units in Export Processing Zones.

(b) to (d) These suggestions would be kept in view while formulating proposals for amendment of the Export-import Policy.

Import of Sugar

2034. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that global sugar imports are likely to decrease by about 2 per cent this year;

(b) whether most of the countries have reduced their imports;

(c) whether it is a fact that our country has increased the imports;

(d) if so, the reasons for such increase in imports;

(e) whether Government propose to take steps to reduce import of sugar in our country;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) and (b) As per the Statistical Bulletin issued by the International Sugar Organisation, London, some countries have increased their imports while some have reduced it.